

This is an appropriate recognition of his service to Chicago and the people of Illinois and, frankly, Mr. Speaker, it is a very appropriate thank you for a lifetime of public service to the people of Chicago.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to vote for this legislation.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Government Reform, I join the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) in the consideration of H.R. 1377, legislation naming a post office located at 9308 South Chicago Avenue as the John J. Buchanan Post Office Building.

This measure, introduced by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) on April 13, 1999, passed the House by a voice vote on May 24, 1999.

On November 3, 1999 the Senate Government Affairs Committee ordered H.R. 1377 to be reported favorably with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

On November 4, 1999, the bill was reported to the Senate with an amendment to H.R. 1377; subsequently passed the Senate unanimously with an amendment on November 19, 1999.

It is my understanding that the amendment involved the selection of a post office nearer to Mr. Buchanan's home.

H.R. 1377, as originally passed by the Committee on Government Reform and the House, designated the John J. Buchanan Post Office at 13234 South Baltimore Avenue in Chicago, Illinois. As amended in the Senate, the John J. Buchanan Post Office will now be located at 9308 South Chicago Avenue in Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. Buchanan, a City of Chicago alderman, recently retired as a life-long resident and public servant of Chicago's 10th Ward. He has lived and served Chicago his entire life. He serves on the board of directors of several community organizations, including the Hedgewisch Chamber of Commerce, South Chicago YMCA and Trinity Hospital Governing Council.

I am pleased to join my colleague in the passage of H.R. 1377, as amended in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 1377.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 396

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed from the list of cosponsors of House Resolution 396.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY IN NORTHERN EUROPE ACT OF 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4249) to foster cross-border cooperation and environmental cleanup in Northern Europe, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4249

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Cross-Border Cooperation and Environmental Safety in Northern Europe Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) Northern Europe is an increasingly vital part of Europe and one that offers great opportunities for United States investment.

(2) Northern Europe offers an excellent opportunity to make progress toward the United States vision of a secure, prosperous, and stable Europe, in part because of—

(A) historical tradition of regional cooperation;

(B) the opportunity to engage Russia in positive, cooperative activities with its neighbors to the west;

(C) commitment by the Baltic states to regional cooperation and integration into western institutions; and

(D) longstanding, strong ties with the United States.

(3) The United States Northern Europe Initiative (NEI) provides the conceptual and operational framework for United States policy in the region, focused on developing a regional network of cooperation in the important areas of business and trade promotion, law enforcement, the environment, energy, civil society, and public health.

(4) A central objective of the United States Northern Europe Initiative is to promote cross-border cooperation among the countries in the region.

(5) A wide variety of regional and cross-border projects have been initiated under the United States Northern Europe Initiative since the Initiative was established in 1997, including the following:

(A) A United States-Lithuanian training program for entrepreneurs from Belarus and Kaliningrad.

(B) The Great Lakes-Baltic Sea Partnership program that is being implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency.

(C) A Center of Excellence for Treatment of Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis in Riga, Latvia.

(D) A regional HIV/AIDS strategy being developed under United States and Finnish leadership.

(E) Multiple efforts to combat organized crime, including regional seminars for police officers and prosecutors.

(F) Programs to encourage reform of the Baltic electricity market and encourage United States investment in such market.

(G) Language and job training programs for Russian-speaking minorities in Latvia and Estonia to promote social integration in those countries.

(H) A mentoring partnership program for woman entrepreneurs in the northwest region of Russia and the Baltic states, as part of broader efforts to promote women's participation in political and economic life.

(6) Norway, Sweden, and Finland have made considerable efforts to provide assistance to the newly independent Baltic states and to the Northwest region of Russia. In particular, the United States notes the request placed before the European Union by Finland in 1999 for the creation and extensive funding by the European Union of a "Northern Dimension" Initiative to substantially address the problems that now exist in Northern Europe with regard to economic development, protection of the environment, the safety and containment of nuclear materials, and other issues.

(7) The United States commends the endorsement of the "Northern Dimension" Initiative by the European Council at its meeting in Helsinki, Finland in December 1999 and calls on the European Union to act on that endorsement through the provision of substantial funding for the Initiative.

(8) While the European Union, its member states, and other European countries should clearly take the lead in addressing the challenges posed in Northern Europe, in particular through appropriate yet substantial assistance provided by the European Union, the United States-Northern Europe Initiative, and this Act are intended to supplement such efforts and build on the considerable assistance that the United States has already provided to the Baltic states and the Russian Federation. Partnership with other countries in the region means modest United States investment can have significant impact.

(9) The United States Northern Europe Initiative's focus on regional environmental challenges is particularly important. Northern Europe is home to significant environmental problems, particularly the threat posed by nuclear waste from Russian submarines, icebreakers, and nuclear reactors.

(10) In particular, 21,000 spent fuel assemblies from Russian submarines are lying exposed near Andreyeva Bay, nearly 60 dangerously decrepit nuclear submarines, many in danger of sinking, are languishing in the Murmansk area of Northwest Russia, whole reactors and radioactive liquid waste are stored on unsafe floating barges, and there are significant risks of marine and atmospheric contamination from accidents arising from loss of electricity or fire on deteriorating, poorly monitored nuclear submarines.

(11) This waste poses a threat to the safety and stability of Northern Europe and to countries of the Eurasian continent.

(12)(A) In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency has facilitated the expansion and upgrading of a facility for the treatment of low-level liquid radioactive waste from the decommissioning of nuclear submarines docked at naval facilities in the Arctic region of Russia.

(B) The Environmental Protection Agency has also initiated a project to construct an 80-ton prototype cask for the storage and transport of civilian-controlled spent nuclear fuel, much of it damaged and currently stored onboard an aging vessel anchored in Murmansk Harbor. Currently in the design phase, this project is scheduled for completion in 2000.

(13) Working with the countries in the region to address these environmental problems remains vital to the long-term national interest of the United States.